

## EIC HOSTS PANEL ON MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY FOR FILM AND TV WRITERS AND PRODUCERS

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The Entertainment Industries Council (EIC) hosted an event known as the *First Draft Creative Briefing* on Thursday, August 8, 2013, at the Universal Studios Hollywood lot. The briefing was an opportunity to help producers, writers, directors and actors understand mental health recovery and how to accurately portray it in film and television.

At the two-hour event, entertainment industry professionals had the opportunity to hear from a panel of experts who provided insight and personal experiences to help bring certain topics to life. This particular session was focused on mental health recovery through those with lived experience.

The briefing included clips from the documentary *A New State of Mind: Ending the Stigma of Mental Illness* as well as presentations from members of the documentary's cast who shared their personal stories and some insight. Panelists included Clayton Chau, M.D., Keris Myrick, M.B.A., M.S., Ph.D., Monica Potts and Elyn Saks, J.D., Ph.D. Each panelists shared their thoughts and feelings about the stigma associated to mental health and the recommendations they have for how perceptions can be changed through education and discussion.

"One thing that's important is that it's helpful to use people's stories to break the silence about mental health," said Myrick. As the national president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), she spoke about the significance in bringing awareness to mental health and for openly talking about it so others could get the help they need. "We have to educate others about it."

EIC presents Understanding Mental Health Recovery for Storytellers as part of a project by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA). Prevention and Early Intervention programs implemented by CalMHSA are funded by counties through the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA or Prop 63), which provides funding to expand mental health services to underserved populations and all of the state's diverse communities.